

Blackbeard Island

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2013-2014

Blackbeard Island NWR, McIntosh County, Georgia

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public hunting on Blackbeard Island NWR is permitted on approximately 4,500 acres. Certain areas (marked on the map printed on the reverse side) are closed to hunting.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. In addition to Federal regulations, State game and fish laws and regulations are adopted and in effect unless they have been further restricted by Federal law or regulations (www.gohuntgeorgia.org). All Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced. **Licenses, permits, all hunting and fishing equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal and State officers.**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex
694 Beech Hill Lane
Hardeeville, SC 29927
843/784 2468
<http://www.fws.gov/harrisneck>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/334 WILD

June 2013



General Hunting Regulations

Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting regulations brochure on their persons at all times, in addition to any required State licenses. Only hunters with proper state licenses and refuge permits will be allowed on the refuge during the hunts.

Youth hunters 15 years of age or under must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. The adult may supervise only one youth.

Each hunter may place one stand on the refuge no earlier than one month prior to the opening day of each hunt. However, hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. **Stands must be removed by the end of each hunt.**

Hunters must check in at the refuge dock prior to setting up camp. Personal identification (driver's license or official state identification card) will be required at check-in.

Hunters may check in no more than one day in advance of the opening date of each hunt period. Check-in will not be permitted after sunset of the second hunt day. Hunters must be off the refuge by noon the day following the last day of the hunt period.

Boats may not be moored to the government dock except for loading and unloading purposes. Boats must be moored at the specified area near the government dock.

Blackbeard Island NWR will be closed to the general public one day prior to, and one day after, the hunt period as well as on hunt days.

Transportation is not provided to, from, or on the refuge. Any movement within the refuge must be by foot or bicycle **(by foot only within the National Wilderness Area)**. Entry and exit points are limited to designated check stations or other specified areas. Hunters are not allowed to leave by boat to reach other parts of the island.

All camping will be at designated camping areas only. Fires must be confined to the camping area **(See "Camping Facilities" section for restrictions on firewood.)**

The possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Bows may not be taken from the campground during authorized scouting period from check-in until the beginning of hunt hours.

Archery target practice will be permitted in designated areas only.

This is an annual permit. To save tax dollars, please use this permit for the entire season.

2013 Blackbeard Island NWR Bow Hunt Permit

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your Blackbeard bow hunt permit, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Check-in is required upon arrival at the refuge dock.

Signature

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The possession or use of poison, or poison pods, is illegal.

The distribution of bait, and hunting over bait, is prohibited.

Hunters must be on their stands from one-half hour before legal sunrise until 9 am and from two hours before sunset until one-half hour after legal sunset.

Deer harvested during scheduled hunts must be checked by refuge personnel before leaving the refuge.

Only designated game species and feral hogs may be taken and other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

Archery hunters are encouraged to wear a fluorescent orange outer garment while hunting on the ground or walking to and from stands.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter is prohibited.

Pruning/limbing of live trees is prohibited.

Participating in "man-drives" for deer is prohibited.

No flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices may be used to locate stands, or for any other purpose.

The use of trail or game cameras is prohibited.

All forms of litter must be removed from the refuge.

Archery Deer Hunts

Archery hunting for deer on Blackbeard Island NWR will be permitted only on October 17 - 19, 2013 and December 5 - 7, 2013.

Five deer (no more than two antlered) may be taken (state bonus tags will be issued for two of these). Feral hogs (no bag limit) may also be taken.

Only bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized for hunting.

How to Obtain Hunt Permits

The attached permit (on the cover) to participate in the bow hunt will be validated during check-in at the refuge dock. An unlimited number of permits will be available for both archery hunts. Additional hunting regulations brochures may be obtained in advance from either the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex or Harris Neck NWR offices or

downloaded from the refuge website:

<http://www.fws.gov/savannah/hunting.html>

Brochures will also be available upon check-in during refuge hunts.

Camping Facilities

All campsites are primitive. Potable water, flush toilets, and showers are available at the campground. A cooler unit is operated to store harvested deer.

In an effort to prevent the spread of tree-killing insects and disease, hunters are prohibited from bringing firewood to the refuge. Hunters may cut what they need from dead and downed wood in and around the campground area (cutting live or standing dead trees is prohibited.)

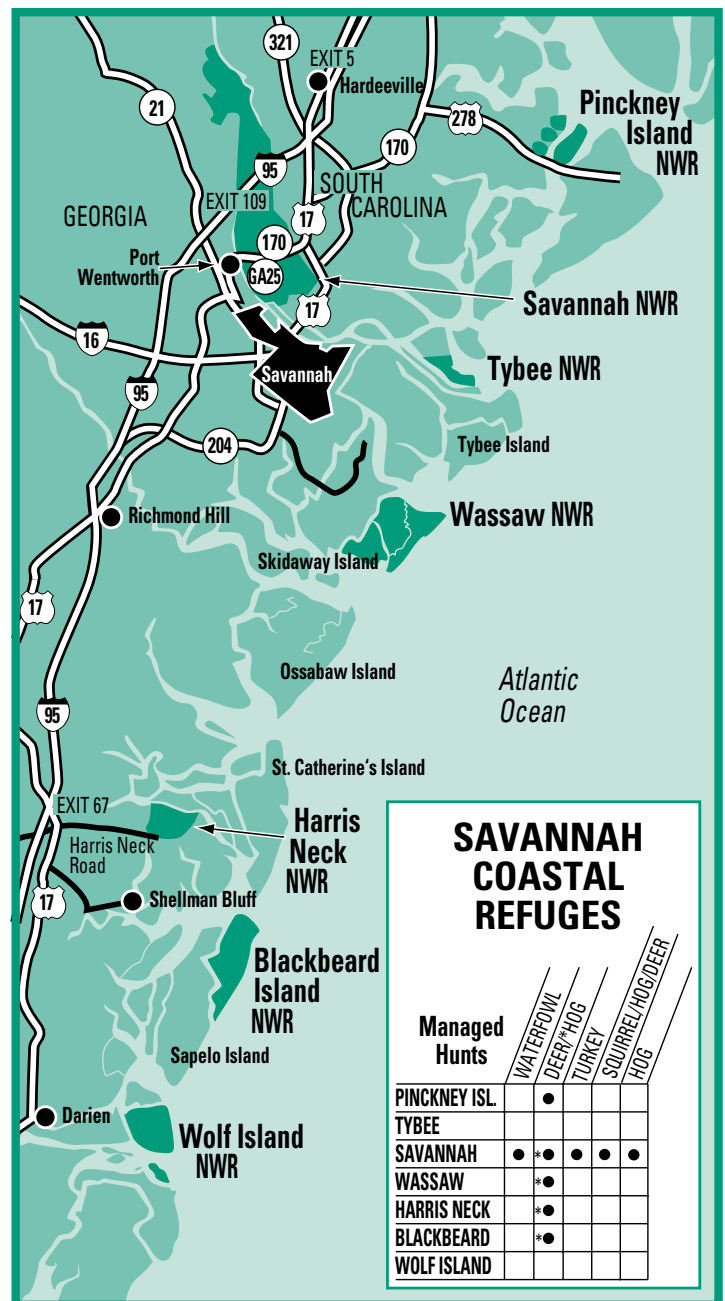
Boater Caution

Coastal waters are subject to extreme tidal fluctuations of six to ten feet. Hunters should be familiar with tide tables, and monitor coastal weather conditions before navigating to the barrier island refuge.

Notice for Boaters

Launching from Harris Neck NWR

Barbour River Landing is normally open daily from 4 am - midnight. However, during the archery hunts on Blackbeard Island NWR, the landing will be open for 24-hour use. Hunters do not need a parking permit to leave their vehicles there overnight throughout the hunt periods.



Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing on Blackbeard Island NWR is permitted on designated areas of the refuge, in accordance with all applicable State regulations*, and subject to the following special conditions:

Saltwater fishing is permitted year-round in the estuarine waters adjacent to the refuge.

Bank/beach fishing into estuarine waters is permitted only from sunrise to sunset, except during managed hunts.

Freshwater fishing is prohibited.

*A Georgia fishing license is required.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:

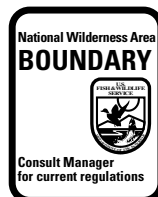
This sign delineates the refuge boundary. You may enter only on designated access routes. Consult manager for restrictions.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting or sight-seeing is permitted. Roads and trails within this area are closed to the public.



This sign delineates the National Wilderness Area boundary. Special regulations pertaining to wilderness must be obeyed while hunting within this area (see "Keep Wilderness Wild" section of brochure.)



Keep Wilderness Wild

In 1964, our nation's leaders formally acknowledged the immediate and lasting benefits of wild places to the human spirit and fabric of our nation by enacting landmark legislation that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America. The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System to "...secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

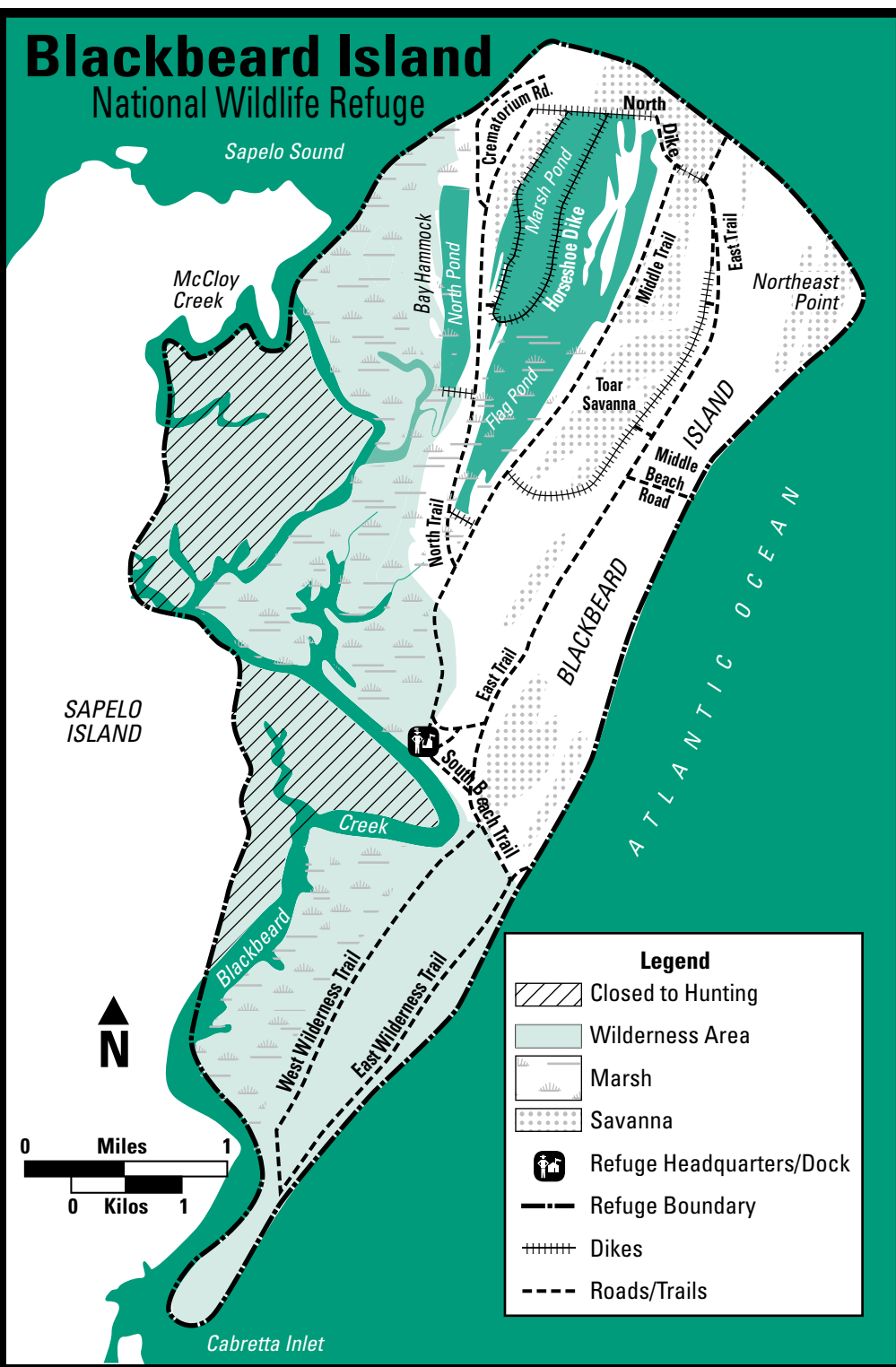
The Act describes wilderness as:

"...lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..."

"...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man..."

"...an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation..."

"...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..."



"...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."

"...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic use."

Leave No Trace

Seven Principles of Outdoor Ethics

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors